PIERCING THE ISTHMUS

De Lesseps' View of the Interoceanic Canal.

"MASTER OF THE SITUATION."

The Eminent Engineer Feels a Sympathetic Drawing Toward America.

The January number of the North American Review is one of unusual importance, and contains among other notable contributions an article by M. Ferdinand de Lesseps on the subject of "The Interocesuic Canal." We take pleasure in laying before the readers of the Hunard a few extracts from this very interesting paper.

M. Do Lesseps begins by calling attention to the

M. Do Lesseps begins by calling attention to the importance of the project, the carrying out of which is felt to be a necessity by the whole world. "The want of a maritime highway across the Isthmus," he says, "has been more sensibly felt since the immense development of California—a development already beginning to be shared by other countries. order upon the Pacific Ocean, and which would be much more pronounced if there were a canal which would place them in easy communica-tion with Europe and with the Eastern States of the

FROWNS AT THE CLOSED DOORS. The writer regrets that the American commission at with closed doors. "The minutes of these cones were not even communicated to the Conwell as the Congress has been permitted to know only the conclusions of the American Commission," By way of contrast the proceedings of the Con-gress of Paris are held up for admiration. Its ings were held in the most public manner, and all the discussions of its commissions and sub-commissions were published in extense in a magnificommissions were published to exercise in a language cent volume of 600 pages, which all the world may read; it has thus vindicated its independence and the exclusively scientific purpose of its labors. Its decisions do not fear the light, and the great public. final arbitor, will appreciate the value the discussions of a Congress which called together an *title* of engineers, of statisticians and of learned men of every sort, which invited before it the authors of all the several plans, discussing their labors at great leveral plans, discussing their laters at great length, and especially the very remarkable ones of Americans, which elicited the admiration of all the members. It is only necessary to read over the re-port of all the conferences, that monument of science which the delegates of all nations helped to ect during the fortnight devoted to the study of the Interoceanic Canal, to see with what impartiality, with what attention, with what fitness for the work the various projects were examined, and the care which was taken to compare them, and the important position occupied by the American represents ives. Those gentlemen were received with the restest cordiality and treated with the highest dison, and the Congress accorded to them the fullt opportunity for presenting the results of their vestigations and their plans, which, moreover, re-

MISTAKES OF AMERICAN EXPLORERS. nany respects so well worthy of consideration, did not furnish a practical solution of the question it is secause in the United States the new conditions hich have been created by the great fact of steam avigation have not been sufficiently considered; in his instance the country which has always been the advance leader in reform has forgotten its own traditions. In the examination made of different ets in the United States the only plan though has been to make use of inland waters we entirely neglected to study the methods which they would secure a constant level sea water for the purposes of navigation in of sea water for the purposes of navigation in a channel cut from one ocean to the other. At the present day, however, when large steam vessels are in use, the longest of which reaches 140 metres, it is impossible that such a canal should follow the course of rivers which have very sharp angles; it is therefore necessary to make the lines of such a canal nearly straight, or at least with curves having a radius of not less than two thousand metres. Hence it would be impossible, in the waters of Central America, to build a canal with lines sufficiently atraight for the reception of these great steam vessels, whose dimensions, on the other hand, could not be seriously restricted. In former times navigation

of 5,000 tons, which carry upward of two thousand persons.

THE TRUE PLAN.

It is obvious, therefore, that, as navigation has itself changed, and as sailing vessels have come to occupy a very subordinate position in the higher ocean marine, a canal suited to the maritime conditions of the present day is an absolute necessity. The experience of the Suez Canal proves that the plan adopted in its construction was the true one. The old fashioned sailing vessels cannot carry great cargoes of merchandise. It is for this reason that vessels have been lengthened. * * * The casiest and the shortest point of navigable transit is therefore indispensable. The Nicaragus Cashal does not fulfil these conditions. Although the route of it is not across the widest, still it traverses nearly the widest portion of the Isthmus; it is 205 kilometres long, with twenty-one locks. However suitable it might have been when only sailing vessels were employed, to endeavor to avail of niland waters for the construction of a maritime canal, we must, at the present day, when the use of steam has led to the lengthening of vessels to an extent before unprecedented, conform to the exigencies of that species of navigation. Twenty years ago nobody supposed that there would ever be vessels 140 metres long; nevertheless, the engineers who constructed the Suez Canal foresaw the importance of curves of large radius, and it is by means of these that the largest ships are canaled to traverse it with case.

Opposes Locks.

M. de Lesseps expresses himself as opposed to locks, and he then gwes his reason for that opposition:

"At Bordeaux, for example, a magnificent floating

locks, and he then gives his reason for that opposition:—
"At Bordeaux, for example, a magnificent floating
dock for large packet boats has just been completed.
It has one lock, admirably constructed at the Creusot Iron Works. A single person can operate the
gates at the entrance and at the outlet; the gates are
opened by a depth of water of eight or eight and a
half metres; it is a vast improvement; and yet,
great as it is, the Congo, of the Transatiantic line,
occupied an hour and a half in passing through it.
Herg was an hour and a half lost, without counting
the time which was required to slacken the speed of
the vessel. It would require only a few such vessels
in a canal to put a stop to practical navigation
through it."

MERCIPEL SCHEME.

When Mesers. Wise, Reclus and their companions eturned from their explorations of the istimus hey brought with them the outline plan of a canal rom the fulf of Limon to Panama, without locks, rossing the Cordilleras either with a tunnel or a urisce cutting.

from the Gulf of Limon to Panama, without locks, crossing the Cordilleras either with a tunnel or a surface cutting.

These explorations furgished all that was wanting to an exact knowledge of the American Ishmus throughout its entire length. From the combined labor of Americans and of Frenchmen it was now possible, with entire certainty, to solve the question of an interoceanic canal. The time had arrived for realizing the wish expressed in 1875—namely, to convone an international congress to which all the investigations made and all the plans proposed should be submitted. Accordingly, in the early part of 1879, in concert with M. Henry Bigane, secretary of the commission nominated by the geographical societies, I sent an invitation to all the chambers of commerce and scientific societies, without making any appeal to governments, and on our sole invitation everybody came. In the month of May last a large number of ongmeers, of statisticians and of savans best together in Paris and formed themselves into a congress. Coming as they did from all countries, unknown for the most part to each other, having no common bond of union, representing often discordant opinions, how could those delegates have been animated by any other concern than for the general interest? What influences, moreover, could have been brought to bear to clicit a decision contrary to their conscientious judgment, from men of such conscience, and whose well known position, honorable character and perfect independence placed them boyond the reach of suspicion? * * * It He Congress, composed as it was of mon of high antilority, rejector the Nicaragua scheme by an immense majority, it was because it failed entirely to satisfy the new conditions of navigation, with its 295 knometres of length, its twonly-one locks, its obstructed San Juan River, its harbors blocked with sand or to be created wholly anew, gits curves of

short radius, going down even to 620 metres, which would not allow a large vessel.

An obstacle which would tend greatly to augment the difficulty of keeping the Nicaragua Canal in repair is the frequent recurrence of earthquakes in that volcanic region. Does the reader consider what difficulties would be occasioned by carthquakes, where it would be necessary to construct locks which would be rendered incapable of use whenever the slopes of the canal should be destroyed? I do not hesitate to assert, after my experience in connection with the Nucz Canal, that the Nicaragua Canal could never be anything else than a channel for inferior navigation; and that, in spite of the enormous expenses necessary in its construction, it could never accommodate the large vessels which now perform the commerce of the world. Besides, why should not the United States build the canal themselves if they consider it a useful work? They would in this way encourage the development of the State of Nicaragua, in which they appear to be particularly interested. For my own part I should be well satisfied with such a course, for every new highway is a step forward; and, moreover, one appropriate to the minor navigation would do no injury to the canal of Panama, which is destined to perform a wholly different office—that of giving accommodation to the higher navigation.

At Panama there are no earthquakes. To be assured of this it is only necessary to look at the geological charts, and, among others, at the celebrated atlas of Berghaius; neither are there any locks, and I trust no serious physical obstacles, only seventy-three kilometres of length, two excellent harbors at the extremities, already much frequented, and a railway the whole distance, which will greatly facilitate the labors of construction. If at Panama it is necessary to trench and cut through eighty-seven metres in the mountain, Nicaragua on its part offers a solid obstacle thicker still, if less glevated, and besides this numerous crites to be removed. Moreover, is it to be

When the Congress of 1879, acting with the most conscientious fidelity, and after the most searching examination—for not a few of the eminent men who composed it spent their nights as well as their days in the labor of investigation—decided that a canal without looks, such as I have advocated, was the only one practicable, then it was that, acting on the impulse of the moment, and without consulting anybody. I acceded to a demand which had been made upon me in the general session, to take the direction of the enterprise. I did this, perhaps, without much reflection, but reflection has only served to convince me that I was right.

ALL OR NOTHING.

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The parties who held the concession for the canal came to me and said, "We have the concession, but we can do nothing without you." I replied to them, "Gentlemen, I am very sorry, for I cannot take upon myself to organize such an enterprise in connection with other persons who might pledge my credit in its behalf. I do not doubt that you are thoroughly honorable men; but, when I engage in such an undertaking as this I cannot share the responsibility of it with anybody. I have my own ideas, which are not those of all the world; I must, therefore, retain my full liberty of action. I began my diplomatic career in Egypt, being accredited to Medemet Ali, the regenerator of that country. He one day said to me, "My dear Lesseps, you are very young, and I give you this counsed, which you will find useful in your future career—Remember, when you have anything important to accomplish, that if there are two of you there is one too many."

I accordingly said to those gentlemen;—"I do not doubt your loyaity, but so far as it relates to shaping the enterprise, I desire to be alone; when capital owns to be enlisted in it, the owners of that capital will administer it themselves through their proper representatives. Tell me what you wish. You have incurred certain expenses; others have joined you in the expectation of making money. State your claims and I will have them examined by my legal advisers, upon whose counsels I have relied in all the business of the Sucz Canal. Whatever they decide that I ought to give, I will give you." On the basis of these assurances I entered into a formal contract with them, and I remain master of the situation. It is in this way that I have assumed the responsibility of the enterprise, no one else has any responsibility of the enterprise, no one else has any responsibility of the enterprise, no one else has any responsibility of the enterprise, no one else has any each of the canal was a summer of the exp

Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and in giving a new impulse to its national prosperity.

AMERICAN UMBRAGE.

Certain American interests, it is true, have taken umbrage; the railways already projected, or in process of construction, and which are intended to unite the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, have had a momentary alarm, but reflection has led them to see how foolish and chimerical their foars have been. These lines barely suffice for transportation such as it exists to-day; what will that transportation be when, under the influence of the canal, the intervening sections of country shall become more populous and developed, and afford to the transcontinental railways which serve them greater opportunities of long carriage? It should be remembered that just in proportion as the avenues of communication increase, so far from injuring each other they give rise to new industries and to an enlarged commercial activity; and that they thus create a new ourrent of business capable of affording to them the necessary support. The United States have only to cast their eyes over the vast network of railways which they already possess in order to verity the truth of this economic principle. It is, moreover, to be remem-

ness capable of affording to them the necessary support. The United States have only to cast their eyes over the vast network of railways which they already possess in order to verify the truth of this economic principle. It is, moreover, to be remembered that railways and canais are supported by the carriage of different species of merchandise—products of great value and small bulk voluntarily selecting the more rapid channel of the railway, while other broducts choose the maritime highway.

Two Important QUESTIONS.

The important bearing which the interoceanic canal has on the commerce of the United States has very naturally attracted the public attention of that country to two points worthy of consideration:—First, the nationality of the canal; and second, the share which the great American Republic should have in its administration. These questions, which might be very difficult to solve it governments were concerned in the project, become very simple from the fact that the maritime canal is to be the private property of all nationalities, and that no nation could attempt to lay hands on it without injuriously affecting the rights of others, and no administration would consent to this being done. Is there not in this fact the strongest guarantee of the neutrality of the transit? It is for precisely the same reason that the Suez Canal, lying between nations which have deluged Europe with blood in recent years, has always been respected—to such a degree even that, at certain moments, the vessels of war of beligherent nations have found themselves side by side within its precincts, just as if they had been in absolutely neutral waters.

As to the second point the answer is easy. In a general company, such as that of the Interoceanic Canal, all decisions rest with the goneral assembly of shareholders, who cause them to be executed by agents of their own appointment. Now, in the interoceanic Canal, all decisions rest with the goneral assembly of shareholders, who cause them to be executed by agents of their own

United States should be included; that it has been proposed to organize the company under the French law.

THE MONROR DOCTRINE.

I cannot conclude this paper without saying a few words concerning the Monroe doctrine—though it can be in no manner applicable to a private enterprise, such as a canal, railway or other similar undertaking. What, thou, is the Monroe doctrine? In 1823 the holy alliance was formed for the purpose of repressing the movements of nations in the direction of free institutions; and when, at the Congress of Laybach, France engaged to send 100,000 men to Spain to restore the absolute sovereignty of Ferdinand VII., the English Minister Canning entered into an engagement with President Monroe to proclaim the independence of the old Spanish colonies in America and to prevent any attempt hostile to that independence by European Powers, Hence, the Monroe doctrine, so fife from being opposed to our enterprise, is directly favorable to it, inasmuch as it is the Republic of the United States of Colombia which has granted the concession for the United States of Colombia, of the 3d of September, 1879, as well as the letter of the government of Panama, which informed me of that decree, vory plainly signify that the nations of that part of America are heartily enfisited in the undertaking.

America THE DAUGHTER OF ZOYIT.

As for myself, I devote myself all the more willingly to this enterprise of an American canal, brother and complement of that of Sues, because of a sympathetic drawing which I feel toward America, the eldest daughter, perhaps, of ancient Egypt; for that continent which we call the "New World" was visited, according to the opinion of certain learned men, by fleets of Solomen and of Hiram, at that period of history when we were clothed in the skins of beasts and our ancestors lived in the age of stone.

Christopher Columbés, who discovered America for us, and the Spaniards who succeeded him, discovered the traces of an ancient civilization. Everything remains us of that extinct civilization with which the early navigators were, doubtieds, acquainted—the monuments of Yucatan, a stone covered with Tyrian inscriptions lately found in the Upper Amazon, and which the learned Emperor of Brazil, our illustrious colleague of the Institute, has caused to be deposited in the museum at Rio Janeiro. In this manner has the narrative of the Bible been verified which recounts that the fleets of Solomon and of Hiram set sail from the harbor of Joppa (Jaffa), and, after three years, rethread laden with the merchandise of Ophir, of Parvaim and of Tarshish. Some historians have maintained that the Egyptians and the Tyrians went in cearch of gold along the castern coasts of Africa, below the entrance to the Red Sea, where the Tyrians had also fleets which Solomon had caused to be built. But the Bible is quite explicit on this point. It gives the departure and the duration of the voyages—three years. It declares that, on salling from Joppa, they went to Ophir and Parvaim, and, following the coast of Africa, visited the Cape de Verd Ialands and the islands of Madeirs, which the ancients called the Fortunate Ialands. The Carthaginians were acquainted with them; the Tyrians knew them in this connection, that they prevented other nations from passing through the Pillars of Hercules, in order not to be deprived of their commerce with other parts of the world. All this seems to me highly isteracting. I should be glad if this question might be investigation has been made respecting that passage of Piato in which, in the dialogues of Timeus, the interlocutor of the dialogue, presents himself before a high priest of the temple of Sais, a great city of Piato in which, in the dialogues of Timeus, the interlocutor of the dialogue, the presents himself before a high priest of the temple of Sais, a great city of Lower Egypt, and demands of him

Lower Egypt, and demands of him what he thinks of his nation, Greece.

"You are children, you Greeks," he replied; "you have forgotten the history of your fathers, who taught us to handle the bow and the arrow, and to defend ourselves from the Atlantides, who came upon the great shores of the sea." Atlantis was composed of two great islands, and between these two great islands and the Pillars of Hercules there were smaller islands. There is nothing more striking. I have nowhere observed that this passage of Plato has been made the subject of later studies.

The Egyptians, and especially the Tyrians, and the fleets of Solomon, after having rounded the coasts of Africa, could easily have reached the coasts of Brazil over a tranquil sea. In searching for the mouth of a river they no doubt discovered the Amazon and ascended the course of it. What is remarkable is, that Parvaim is, in the language of the country, the plured of Pari, which is one of the two higher affuents of the Amazon. There is reason to believe that in the Spaniah srchives evidence would be found to demonstrate that when the Spaniards arrived in this country they discovered the decadence of a very ancient civilization.

Civilization lives again on the American continent in out day; at its head marches the intelligent people of the United States. The nations of Central America and of South America are struggling to elevate themselves, and to follow in the footsteps of they great Republic of the North; and the canal cannot fall to assist the development of these, American countries.

PANAMA EASHER TO PIERCE THAN SUEZ.

I invite the co-operation, in the accomplishment of this great enterprise, of all men of noble purpose, all those who strive after the works of peace and of progress, in which the United States are especially

progress, in which the United States are especially pre-eminent.

In closing this paper I turn back and am reminded that a new work is in preparation. How many people, and those among the most eminent, formerly treated the Suez Canal as an impracticable enterprise! To create a harbor in the Gulf of Pelusium; to cross the morasses of the Lake of Menzaleh and to mount the threshold of El-Guisr; to dig through the sands of the desert; to establish workshops at a distance of twenty-five leagues from any village, in a country without inhabitants, without water, without roads; to fill the basin of the Bitter Lakes; to prevent the sands from encreaching on the canalwhat a dream of madness it all was!

All this, nevertheless, has been accomplished, and I know at the cost of what efforts it has been done. I do not hesitate to declare that the Panama Canalwill be easier to begin, to finish and to maintain than the canal of Suez.

CATHOLIC COLONIZATION.

Right Rev. John Ireland, D. D., coadjutor Bishop alding, D. D., Bishop of Peoria, Ill., addressed a large audience last evening at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, in Thirty-second street, near Ninth avenue, of which Rev. Father Arthur J. Donnelly is pastor. The subject of their discourses was Catholic colonization in the Western States and Territories, and each spoke at considerable length, setritories, and each spoke at considerable length, setting forth in strong terms the great mistake that Irish emigrants to this country make by settling down and remaining in the industrial centres and manufacturing towns and in the large cities of the Atlantic scaboard instead of taking possession of the rifen and fortise lands that are being given away by the government or sold at a nominal price to actual sattlers upon them. Had the Irish race followed the example set them by the Germans, Scandinavians and other emigrants to America in years gone by, they might now be the owners of millions of acres of the choicest lands in Pennsylvania, Ohio and even New York, instead of being, as they now are, the slaves of the rich, wearing out their lives by doing the drudgery and hard work in the factories and in the mines, building rafiroads, erecting houses for the rich to live in, constructing sewers and the like, and thereby keeping themselves in ignorance and without influence in the political and social affairs of the country in which they live. The bishops said that they had perfected a plan by which emifluence in the political and social affairs of the country in which they live. The bishops said that they had perfected a plan by which emigrants following their direction and settling upon the lands assigned to them would be able to obtain their first income from the sale of farm products within three or rour months after their arrival in the West. The subscriptions to the stock of \$100,000 in the new Catholic Colonization Society, which is composed of business men-lawyers, merchants, brokers and others—as well as of bishops and priests, is now nearly complete, and it is expected that all the stock will be subscribed for within a few days. This stock is in 1,000 shares, solid at \$100 cach.

Bishops Ireland and Spalding return to the West on Friday of this week. They have just finished a tour through the southern portion of. New England, lecturing in the towns and cities of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, where the large factories are located. Lass Sunday evening they lectured in St. Stephen's Church in East Twenty-eighth street, and on Monday evening in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in East Fourteenth street in this city.

SUBJECT TO FITS.

SUBJECT TO FITS.

At the corner of Barclay and West streets about forty persons gathered on Monday afternoon to to the shouting of an insane and staggering man. His speech was rapid, his manner excited and his utterance incoherent. As he spoke he waved in the air a dilspidated high hat. In the midst of his gyrations Policeman Power, of the Twenty-seventh precinct, arrested him in the belief that he was inprecinct, arrested him in the belief that he was intoxicated. In the Tombs Court yesterday he gave the name of Edward Kenny and said that he was a Methodist minister. An affidavit of drunkenness was sworn to against him by the policeman. When arraigned he said:—"I was not drunk, Your Honor, but suffering from a fit. I wenty years ago, as I was riding from one town to another and speaking in each place I visited, my horse threw me and I was dragged some distance. A few years later another horse threw me and I fell on the top of my head. Since thee two accidents I have often had these fits. They come on me very suddenly and I don't know what happens while they last."

"You did not drink anything, Mr. Kenny?"

"I drank nothing up to the time the fit came on. My physician has told me that my maiady will lead me to drink, and therefore I may have taken some liquor, not knowing what I did. I left a friend's house perfectly well at ten o'clock yesterday morning. The fit came on suddenly, I lost all power over my actions and I remember nothing until I found myself in a cell in the station nouse."

"The policeman did his duty in arresting you," said the Court. "Your conduct was disorderly, your actions certainly those of a drunken man. In your condition you should not be allowed to wander away by yourself. If you are brought before me arain on the same charge of intoxication or commit you for medical examination. You may go." toxicated. In the Tombs Court yesterday he gave

NEEDS A CLEANING.

In the yard on the southwest corner of the block bounded by Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth streets, Ninth and Tenth avenues, which is owned by the potatoes sell to the retail dealers of the metropolis. The rapidity with which these sales are made causes potatoes sell to the retail dealers of the metropolis. The rapidity with which these sales are made causes some wastage, and the occasional throwing of a bad potato on the ground, to be trodden under foot or crushed beneath the wheels of the grocers and pedlers' wagons, has rendered the place anything but a paradise in appearance or in smell. Complaint having been made that the odors were injurious to public health, as well as a nuisance to the inhabitants of the locality, a Herald reporter was despatched there yesterday morning to investigate the matter. He found about forty cars on two tracks in the yard in the midst of a black, sitmy ooze, that stuck like grease to everything it souched. The frost had laid a thin crust over this compound of decayed vegetable, but when it broke at every step on it, the air was filled with foul odors. On one side of the southern track, where the fence prohibited so much traffic, was a pile of rotten potatoes eighteen inches or two feet in depth. Mr. Fairchild, the freight master, claimed that the present was not the habitual condition of the yard, but that there were times when the pressure of freight prevented them from doing all they could in the matter. It was the shippers, he said, who made the place worse, by heedlessness, in allowing the waste potatoes to accumulate around them. The shippers, nowever, claim that the railroad company is reanonable for the condition of the yard.

MARITAL MISERY.

UNHAPPY DOMESTIC LIFE OF AN OYSTER DEALER AND HIS WIFE-A SUIT FOR LIMITED DI-NORCE-A WIFE'S PATHETIC STORY AND A

Barrett, in Supreme Court, Special Term, the trial of a suit for limited divorce brought by Mrs. Margaret Ruckman against her husband, Elisha Ruckman, the details of which, as thus far developed on the openng day of the trial, present a sad picture of the mar ried life of the litigants. Mr. Ruckman began life as a poor boy, and, having embarked in the oyster business, succeeded, in the course of time, in amassing a fortune estimated at over \$500,000, upon the few years, owning an elegant country seat in the vicinity of Tappan, with all the accompaniments of ervants, carriages and fast-going horses. The pres ent Mrs. Ruckman is his second wife. She had for years been the nurse of the first Mrs. Ruckman who was an invalid, and shortly after the demise of Mrs. Buckman No. 1 she consented to become Mrs. ing interesting developments the court room was crowded yesterday, and in the throng was a goodly number of ladies—the friends of the respective liti-gants. The plaintiff, who is a fine looking lady, of middle age, and who was elegantly dressed, a scalakin sacque, diamond earrings and gold watch, with a heavy chain, comprising the more noticeable feature of her toilet, sat near her counsel, Messrs. Jacob Miller and Jacob Weant, of Jersey City. Mr. Ruck man, the husband, also occupied a seat by his counsel, Mr. C. P. Hoffman. He is a stout, thickset man, slightly bald, and with a heavy, florid countenance. After a brief opening of the case by Mr.

man, slightly bald, and with a heavy, florid countenance. After a brief opening of the case by Mr. Mil er on behalf of the plaintiff, stating the facts of the case as recited above and his intention to prove all the allegations set forth in the complaints, he called Mrs. Stuckman to the witness stand. She took her seat with quiet composure, and excepting on one occasion did not lose it during the entire day, which was wnolly taken up in her direct and cross-examination, the latter being an unusually stringent and scathing one.

MRS. RUCKMAN'S STORY.

In answer to questions by her counsel Mrs. Ruckman gave a succinct but not over-pleasing picture of her marital experience, which began with her marriage with the detendant on January 25, 1864. They lived far from harmoniously, but the defendant's alleged cruel treatment of her began in June, 1878, and culminated on the 10th of March last, when, she said, she felt if too hazardous to live longer with him and left him. His cruelty, she said, began by accusing her of improper intimacy with Colonel J. Smith Haring, who was her husband's bookkeeper and surveyor, but who died in November, 1878. Mr. Ruckman, she says, made public his charges of infidelity with Colonel Haring, and went so far as to tell her father and mother that she had been unraithful to him, and added to this accusation that she had attempted to poison him and hud stolen money from him. She denied these charges, and feeling that his accusations were not only unjust, but his treatment of her cruel to an unbearable degree, she brought the present suit.

orusi to an unbearable degree, she brought the present suit.

A SERIES OF MEGATIVES.

Her direct examination was simply a corroboration of the allegations contained in her complaint. On her cross-examination she adhered pretty strictly to her original story, although streamous efforts were made by opposing counsel to show a conflict in the statements she then made and her testimony in a recent foreclosure suit brought by her against the Pailsade Land Company in New Jersey. During this cross-examination she became quite an expert in negative responses.

"Did you not, in Mr. Ruckman's absence, prepare little dinners and suppers," was one of the questions asked her, "for you and Mr. Haring?"

"No, sir" (rery quietly).

"Did you not once get up a champagne supper for him and yoursel?"

"No, sir" (energetically).

"Did you not have quall supper with him?"

"No, sir" (with increased emphasis).

"Did you never lock the door when you and Mr. Haring were in the dining room together?"

"No, sir" (indignantly).

"State some eccasion," said counsel, "when Mr. Ruckman was particularly cruel to you."

"He came home one day from a village where he had been to a chowder party. He began his customary abuse by calling me opprobrious names, and wound up by throwing himself on the floor."

"What did he do then?"

"Ye lived long enough, he said, 'and I am going to die."

"What did you do?"

"I told him he had been in the hot sun too much and sent for a servant, who applled ice to his head."

"How did Mr. Ruckman first accuse you of infidelity?" she was further asked.

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"How and hen had been in the hot sun too much and sent for a servant, who applled ice to his head."

"How are to have a such her asked."

"How are to have a such her asked."

"How are to have a further asked."

"How will meer think in her to be a number of letters, written by Mrs. Ruckman to her husband after she h

Destiny," opening with the sentence. "A right-minded woman thinks it a great destiny to be the wife of a good man." This portion of the correspondence evinced, apparently, quite a friendly relation between the parties. This friendly feeling, however, was not manifested in a letter he writes to her advising her to read the seventh chapter of Proverbs, beginning as the tenth verse, and her rejoinder, advising him to read the twenty-third psalm. These portions of the Old Testament were offered in ovidence but were excluded.

"DIVIDE MY LAST CRUST."

After describing Mr. Ruckman's alleged threats to shoot her and Mr. Haring, and denying that she had ever called him a liur or had used protane language, Mrs. Ruckman detailed the circumstances of their final parting.

"Did Mr. Ruckman beg of you to remain with him?" asked counsel.

"Yes."

"Did not others beg for him?"

"Yes."

"Did he not offer to divide with you the valuable homestead at Tappan if you would remain?"

"Yes."

"Did he not give you \$100 when you left?"

"Did he not offer to divide with you the valuable homestead at Tappan if you would remain?"

"Yes."

"Did he not give you \$100 when you left?"

"Yes, and he did more; he rode with me in the carriage to the depot; he came on the train with me to the city; he went with me to my boarding house, and he still begged of me to go back with him."

"Then why did you not go back?"

"I had borne all I could—all any woman could. I had firmly resolved never to live with him again."

"What were his last words to you?"

"If I ever should get poor,' he said, 'would you give me a home?"

"I told him I would divide my last crust with him."

At this point of her testimony Mrs. Ruckman became deeply affected and wept, and it was some time before she recovered. Her further examination will be resumed this morning.

MR. RUCKMAN'S ANSWER.

Mr. Ruckman in his answer to the complaint denies that he ever cruelly treated his wife, and says that he merely charged her with infidelity on intormation and belief. He confesses to using profane language occasionally, but says it was brought out by her voient temper and harsh and cutting words. He says he has given her \$30,000 since they were married, and if he is guilty of the accusations charged she has condoned the offence.

WILLIAM KELLY'S TRIAL.

WILLIAM KELLY'S TRIAL.

OF THE MANHATTAN BANK.

After three days' labor, and after having exhausted a panel of nearly one hundred and fifty jurors, a jury of twelve unbiased men was secured in the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday for the trial of William Kelly, who is under indictment as a par-ticipant in the robbery of the Manhattan Savings of William Kelly, who is under indictment as a participant in the robbery of the Manhattan Savings Institution. The first witness produced on the part of the prosecution, which was conducted by Assistant District Attorney Horace Russell, was Daniel Keely, a night watchman for the bank. He testified that he was on duty on the night of the robbery, and described the doors and locks of the bank.

Louis Werkle, the janitor of the bank, was then called to the stand. He said he retired about half-past cleven on the night of the robbery, the family consisting of himself, his wife and his mother-in-law; on the Sunday morning following, although the night watchman had reported to him, he did not deem it necessary to get up early, thinking that on Sunday morning he might have an extended sleep; while enjoying his siumber he was disturbed by the presence unbidden of a number of masked and armed men; three of them kept guard over himself, his mother-in-law and his wife, putting irons on him; while he and his family were thus under restraint, he continued, he heard a noise in the building below; at the same time that all this was going on the man on guard of the witness had a pistol pointed at his head; it was by pointing this pistol that witness was compelled to give up the keys of the bank; the burglars had been in the bank about two hours when the witness got loose, he said, and gave notice to the police.

Inspector Hurray was examined and testified to finding the bank building and the safe open, as has already been published in the Hrmano.

At this point Mr. Russell offered testimony showing that kelly, the accused, was once sentenced to twenty years imprisonment for burglary. This was offered under the provisions of a recent statute to the effect that if a man has been once convicted of a crime, such conviction should not be considered by the Judge in sentencing for any subsequent conviction. To this Mr. William A. Beach, counsel for the secused, objected, arguing that laasmuch as Kelly's sentence had been communed, he

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

Republicans Opposed to Changing the Mode of Choosing Them.

JUSTIFIABLE, BUT BAD POLICY.

Democratic Denunciation of the Proposed New Plan.

The rumored intention on the part of republican leaders in this State to have the next Legislature change the method now employed in choosing Presi-dential electors has come to be the one subject of discussion in political circles. The republiin the Senate or Assembly do not, for the most part, regard the scheme with favor. Democrats, prominent and otherwise, denounce the alleged con-templated change in the strongest terms. A HERALD reporter yesterday interviewed a number of gentlent and otherwise, denounce the alleged conmen belonging to both parties, and obtained quite a variety of opinions on the supposed republican plan to capture New York State, Lieutenant Governor Dorsheimer was first ap-

proached on the subject. In reply to the first question of the reporter, as to whether he thought it was the intention of the republicans in the Legislature to make the change, the Lieutenant Governor smiled and said, "I am not in the republican councils."
"Well, but what is said about it among democrat

"I have only heard the subject mentioned in

"There is no doubt about their right and power to do so I suppose?" "I suppose not; but it is a question for the repub lican leaders to determine whether such a course would not be looked upon with disfavor by the

from the people direct then New York is secured for

the republican Presidential candidate."
"Yes, but might they not in consequence lose other
States? While the exercise of a legal right cannot be
characterized as revolutionary still there is sanctity about a law long established and with which no fault has been found, and under some circumstances the changing of a law might be regarded as revolu-tionary by the people. The immediate effect would be to divide and destroy the influence of New York in the Electoral College and in future national con ventions to put New York on the same footing with small State. On the whole, I amestrongly inclined

ventions to put New York on the same footing with a small State. On the whole, I amstrongly inclined to believe that, if the law should be changed at such a time, it would ultimately result in great benefit to the democratic party."

WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE THEM DO IT.

Senator John C. Jacobs, when asked whether he thought the republicans would attempt to make the change, replied, "No, I do not think they will dare to, atthough I for one would be very glad to see them; because I think if they did there would be such a popular revulsion against the stealing of a State for a special purpose that the democratic party would be wonderfully benefited. The mere agitation of the subject has helped us already. If they want the electors chosen by Congressional districts, make it general in all the States of the Union and the democrate won't object. Otherwise New York would have in the Electoral College say twenty democratic and fifteen republican votes, while Massachusetts, for instance, would cast her entire strength for the republican candidate. No, I don't think the republicans will dare attempt it, for the people of the country would resent the outrage; but I say again, if it is done the republicans will simply be stealing the State, and don't forget that I emphasize the word 'steal.'"

Mr. Hamilton Fish, Jr., when spoken to on the subject said:—"I really don't know anything about it. I mean that I havn't heard any of our leading republicans say anything about it, but I don't know but they will have to do something of the kind if the democrate keep on doing as they have in Maine."

"Then you do not think any definite plan of action has been agreed upon?"

"Oh, no. I am sure there has been none."

s been agreed upon?"
"Oh, no. I am sure there has been none."

"Oh, no. I am sure there has been none."

A REPUBLICAN SENATOR'S VIEW.

Senator George H. Forster. who was elected as a republican, was found by a Herald reporter in hisoffice ou Wall street.

"Do you think a change in regard to the manner of choosing electors is contemplated?" asked the reporter.

"I do not. I don't see the use of making any change. The present system works well enough. Why change it?"

"To defeat the democratic party," suggested the reporter.

"That is accomplished already. Any man who imagines the contrary is a fool."
"But is it not possible that the republicans may be defeated next year?"

There is no possible that the republicans may be defeated next year?"

"There is no possibility about it. The democratic party in this State is dead."

"There is no possibility about it. The democratic party in this State is dead."

"Then you don't think the Legislature will pass any law on the subject?"

"I certainly think it will not. Of what use would it be to the republicans? The party wouldn't be benefited by the change, it least so far as I can see. Why make the change if no benefit is to accrue? If there were any doubt of the republicans carrying the State in 1880 there might be some sense in all this talk, but when the democrats have lost their hold on New York it would be very inadvisable to support a proposition looking to making a change in the manner of choosing Presidential electors. That is my view of the matter."

"In case such a project were broached would you oppose it?"

"I should, most undoubtedly. Besides considering any change in the present law unnecessary at the present time, I am of the opinion that any action by the republican party through the New York Legislature would be unwise and impolitic from a party standpoint. I am not in favor of taking any power from the people which they now possess, and I think a change in the law, such as has been sugested, would have the effect of taking any power from the people which they now possess, and I think a change in the law, such as has been sugested, would have the effect of taking from the people certain rights and privileges new possessed by them. Aside from all this, I believe the republican party should not be the first to agitate this question. They now, according to appearances, have a guarantee of carrying this State next year. Any change in the law would have the effect of giving a portion of the electoral vote to the democracy."

The reporter next called upon Assemblyman elect Charles H. Duell, who has long been a prominent member of the republican party. The reporter, as a preliminary query, asked whether he thought any change in the law was contemplated by the republican managers.

"Treally cannot say,

change in the law was contemplated by the republican managers.

"Freaily cannot say," was the reply, "although in my opinion there is no desire on the part of republicans to alter or amend in any particular the present Presidential Electoral laws. In my judgment there will be nothing done. Certainly no steps have yet been taken to my knowledge."

"Would you favor a plan to change the present law?"

"I most assuredly would not. I think the present

"I most assuredly would not. I think the present law has suited the people very well and I would deprecate any change. I would not think it proper at this juncture."

"Would you oppose a proposition to alter the present law if made by the republican leaders in the State?"

"Would you oppose a proposition to alter the present law if made by the republican leaders in the State?"

"Most undoubtedly. In my opinion the success of such a scheme would very greatly injure the ropublican party in the State in more ways than one. The people would not regard any change in the law with favor. They would understand the motive that in their opinion prompted it and would be very apt to retaliate by becoming democrats. The republican party cannot afford to loss any votes in the State by any act of the New York State administration. If they insisted on changing the method now employed for choosing the Presidential electors the democrats would, in my judgment, gain a good point in the contest of 1889. They could say that the republicans were atraid to face the issues raised by them, and resorted to a scheme to obtain what they were afraid to risk on a square battle with their opponents."

"Would you consider the proposed new method a fair one?"

"Eminently so. I consider it a much fairer method than that now employed. The people have a guarantee that their votes will be represented in the Electoral Colege. I will give you an instance. Under the present law New York State chooses its electors on a ticket at large. If, therefore, there are two parties in the field and one electoral ticket polls say s00,000 votes and the opposition are unrepresented in the Electoral Colege, while the other half of the voting population monopolizes all the New York State votes in that body. You can readily see, therefore, that the people would be benefited by a change that would guarantee full representation to all parties. Under the digitact system the minority obtain a proportionate representation."

"Why, then, not favor such a change in the law?"

"The republican party cannot afford, on the eve of a great Presidential election, to support any movement looking to a change in the present law. It might prove disastrous to their candidates, and so far as I can see there is no use in jeopardizing the interests of the p

the democrate in many ways. Taking this view of the matter I should unhesitatingly work against such

the democrata in many ways. Taking this view of the matter I should unhesitatingly work against such a project in every possible way. In conciusion, I want to be understood as saying that I object to changing a certainty of carrying the State for the republicans next year for an uncertainty in this connection. I sail to see the benefit that a change in the law would give the republicans that would not be more than counterbainneed by the reaction against the party by the people."

WHAT MR. VAINEM THINES.

Assemblyman James M. Varnum, who was re-elected a member of the lower branch of the Legislature at the recent election, spoke strongly against it is at all necessary that any such action be taken. The republicans have won the election and are pretty certain of winning next year. What good would it be, then, to change the law? Do I think it will be done? Well, that is a hard question to answer. If those people in Maine persist in their declared intention to cheat the republican party out of their hard earned triumph, why, I can see no objection to New York republicans retaliating by taking only legal measures to protect themselves. The difference between the two cases lies in the fact that in New York the Legislature has all the legal power to change or alter in any way the method now employed in Presidential elections of choosing the body of electors. It may legislate any way it pleases, and its action will be legal, just and proper."

"Then you think it not unlikely that a change will be effected?"

"Then you think it not unlikely that a change will be effected?"
"I really can't say. I have not looked into the subject; but what is good for republicans in Mains is equally good for democrats in New York."

Mr. Elliot C. Cowdin said that he had given the subject no special consideration in reference to the effect it would have on the approaching Freeidential election. He had long felt that it would be more thoroughly democratic, in the best sense of the term, to have the Presidential electors chosen from the Congressional districts, and the electors at large on the general ticket, especially in a great State like New York. He was not aware that there land been any concert of action among the isading republicans on the subject, but it would not surprise him if it was brought up in the coming Legislature.

Assemblyman Charles S. Baker, of Rochester, said he knew nothing of the proposition, except what he had read in the newspapers. It appeared to be a grand opportunity for the republican party to do about as it liked; but if there was any question about the right or morality of the scheme the party should be very careful how they made use of the power in their hands. It would not surprise him if the matter was made a subject of caucus.

Ex-Judge Dittenhoefer said it was a matter of such great importance that he would prefer giving it careful consideration before giving any decided opinion. At present he was personally opposed to the policy, but had not committed himself either was.

Colonel Charles S. Spencer, when asked if he had

the policy, but had not committee way.

Colonel Charles S. Spencer, when asked if he had heard any talk among the republican leaders as to the policy of changing the method of encoging Presidential electors, said:—"I have, and not one that I have heard speak but has expressed himself in terms of the most unqualified disapproval. It would be the ruin of the republican party. It would be a gross outrage upon the people of this State, and any party which would countenance such an outrage would doserve defeat forever after."

REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The Republican Central Committee for the pres year held its final meeting last night in Repub Hall. Ex-Senator Lent presided at the ac Hall. Ex-Senator Lent presided at the session, which was almost wholly given up to presenting and passing complimentary resolutions thanking the officers of the committee for the manner in which they had discharged their duties during the year. Ex-Alderman Joseph C. Pinchney reported that the finances" of the organization were in an encouraging condition, there being a balance of some \$500 on hand. Atter listening to remarks of some other members the committee adjourned size die.

REORGANIZING THE POLICE.

SWEEPING CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE COMMIS-SIONERS-THE WORKING FORCE TO BE IN-CREASED. . The Board of Police Commissioners have again in-

roduced their old system of holding secret sessions. At a private meeting yesterday they followed up their work of the previous day by making other important changes. Captain McElwain, late of the Seventh precinct, who was transferred on Moncommand of the Sixteenth precinct, vice Captain Ryan, who has been sent to the Thirty-first, which is known as the precinct of magnificent distances, with a numerous population of goats. It was to this precinct that Commissioner Morrison endeavored to have Captain Williams relegated. What had transpired at the secret cancus could only be ascertained through the court-sy of Captain Kipp, who is the custodian of the minutes of the Board. At the open meeting which followed it was resolved, on motion of Commissioner Voorhia, that the Committee on Rules and Discipline consider and report suitable resolutions providing for—First, the establishment of three police inspection districts; second, the location of the offices of the district inspectors at the Central Office as soon as the same may be practicable; third, the abolition of the Broadway Squadand of the Steamboat Squad, and for the transfer of the patrolmen attached to said squads (or so many thereof as may be proper and necessary) to the several precincts in which they are now performing duty, and for the transfer of the remainder of the force in said squads to such duty in precincts of otherwise as the public interests may require; fourth, the transfer to patrol duty in the several precincts (where a deficiency exists in the patrol force) of such patrolmen now acting as roundsmou or who are acting as members of the force and assigned to detailed positions where such roundsmen or such nown as the precinct of magnificent to detailed positions where such roundsmen or si detailed officers are unnecessary for the efficiency the torce or not required for the promotion of public welfare.

Mr. Voorhis also presented the following resolution which was adopted:—

which was adopted:—
Resolved. That, it be referred to the Committee on Rules and biscipline to consider and report suitable resolutions providing for the abolition of the Mounted Squad as a separate command, and for the transfer of the patrolmen, horses and equipments of said command to the Thirty-third and Thirty-tourth precincts.

separate command, and for the transfer of the patrolmen, theres and equipments of said command to the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth precincts.

When questioned subsequently regarding the object of these sweeping changes in the organization of the police force Mr. Voorhis said that there were pressing and weighty reasons for making them. The force was short 183 men. In many of the precincts posts had to be doubled at night. The squads and commands it is proposed to abolish do not performinght duty. The object of the Board is to have those men distributed among the precincts which are short of their quota of men, and the work which these special commands now do will be performed by the precinct patrolmen. The captains of precincts fronting the rivers will be held responsible for the protection of life and property along the wharves and docks. Broadway will be looked after, he said, by the captains of the various precincts. The contemplated change will add more men to the department and allow an increased detail for night duty. As regards the inspection districts, Mr. Voorhis said that the resolutions approved by the Board, while reducing the number of inspectors to three, will not dispense with the services of the fourth, who will be permanently stationed at Police Heddquarters to act as assistant to Superintendent Walling and attend to details of discipline which are too numerous for the Superintendent to do justice to. It is also intended that this inspector shall have the supervision of the cierks attached to the office, while the Superintendent will devote himself exclusively to the working efficiency and discipline of the force. The captains will also be orought into more direct communication with the Superintendent. It was meant to make the occupant of that responsible office the head and front of the disciplinary machine ery of the department.

THE NEW BROOM.

Captain Williams took possession of his new office, at Police Headquarters, in the Street Cleaning areau, yesterday, but only remained in the building a short time, preferring to study the details of his new duties from observation instead of trying to learn them from official documents. He was unwilling to be interviewed with regard to street cleaning further than he had been on Monday.

THE HACKENSACK ROBBERY.

Through a misunderstanding of the circumstances Through a misunderstanding of the circumstances connected with the diamond robbery case near Hackensack, N. J., it was reported that Mr. Frank S. Bunn had been charged before a justice of the peace by a young man named Ernest Wittie with taking money from a trunk owned by the latter. It appears that no such charge was made, and in corroboration of this the magistrate alluded to sends for publication the following:—

HACKENSACK, N. J., Dec: 15, 1879.

To THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—
In to-day's issue I lind an article hoaced "Sequel to a Robbery," in which it is stated that Wittie appeared before Justice Van Horn and lodged a complaint charging Frank S. Bunn with the theft of his money. I hereby certify that the statement is utterly false, as Wittie has not made his appearace before one stuce I committed him.

DAVID VAN HORN, Justice of the Feace.

SCIENCE COULD NOT SAVE HIM.

John McEvoy, the lad who died in Paterson, N. J., on Sunday morning, from the effects of a wound by a circular saw which almost cut his skull and brains into two pieces, was buried yesterday afternoon. In the forenoon several physicians from this city again asked permission to make a post-mortem examination of his head, but were refused by the father of the lad in the same language he had used to other applicants for the same privilege:—"I care little for science. It could not save my boy, and se he is under no obligations to it. His remains shall not be mutilated." It being feared, on account of the great interest shown in the case by the medical fraternity, that some of them would attempt to resurrect the body a strict watch will be kept over the grave. The family of the lad are poor, but the different members will take turns in watching. Mr. McEvoy prevented even the probing of the wound after death.